

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 03635 290932Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-15 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-06 AID-05
IGA-02 XMB-04 OMB-01 /106 W
-----083229 291424Z /43

R 290600Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8276
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

UNCLAS COLOMBO 3635

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, CH, CE

SUBJ: SRI LANKA-PRC TRADE AGREEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE FROM FRONT PAGE OF 29
SEPTEMBER COLOMBO "SUN" UNDER HEADING "GOVT. SEEKS NEW TRADE
PACT WITH CHINA."

2. BEGIN TEXT: TOP-LEVEL TALKS BETWEEN SRI LANKA AND CHINA
FOR AN ENTIRELY NEW TRADE AND PAYMENTS AGREEMENT WILL GET
UNDERWAY IN PEKING NEXT MONTH.

THE FIVE-YEAR TRADE AND PAYMENTS AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO
BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT COMES TO AN END THIS YEAR.

SRI LANKA WILL RENEW THE OVERALL TRADE AND PAYMENTS AGREE-
MENT FOR RICE AND THE ANNUAL TRADE PROTOCOL UNDER THE MAIN
AGREEMENT FOR COMMODITIES OTHER THAN RICE. THESE PROTOCOLS
WILL BE RENEWED ANNUALLY.

UNDER THE MAIN AGREEMENT, SRI LANKA WILL IMPORT 200,000
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TONS OF RICE AND EXPORT ABOUT 40,000 TONS OF RUBBER TO CHINA,
WHILE UNDER THE TRADE PROTOCOL SRI LANKA WILL OBTAIN ITS
REQUIREMENT OF TEXTILES, CORIANDER, GARLIC, BUILDING MATERIALS,
CARPENTRY TOOLS, ETC.

THE SRI LANKA DELEGATION FOR THE TALKS WILL BE LED BY MR.
LALITH ATHULATHMUDALI, MINISTER OF TRADE, AND INCLUDE MR.
P.M. HASSEN, FOOD COMMISSIONER; MR. J.R. SAMARANAYAKE, DIREC-

TOR OF COMMERCE; MR. S.L.C. OBEYSEKERA, COMMISSIONER OF
COMMODITY PURCHASE; AND MR. LAKSHMAN DE MEL, SECRETARY TO
THE MINISTRY OF TRADE.

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CENTRAL BANK WHO WILL BE NOMI-
NATED LATER IS ALSO EXPECTED TO JOIN THE DELEGATION WHICH
LEAVES ON OCTOBER 10 FOR THE TWO-WEEK MISSION IN PEKING.

END TEXT.

WRIGGINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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